

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4583

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001

ACTION TAKEN NOTES ON CAG'S OBSERVATION IN DEFENCE .

SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in its Report No.7 of 1997 for the year ended 31st March, 1996 observed that even after incurring an additional liability of Rs. 42.93 lakh in, the procurement of portable steel bin 70% of the operational requirement could not be met in the last six years;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has looked into the matter;

(c) if so, the results achieved therefrom and the steps taken to check such delays and to fix accountability and responsibility; and

(d) the number of audit paras from CAG reports pending action in his Ministry and the dates of their pendency together with the reasons for such delays and the steps taken to overcome them?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has considered the matter and the Action Taken Note dated 15.12.2000 has been sent to the Ministry of Finance after vetting by Director General of Audit, Defence Services.

(c) Necessary instructions have been issued by the Army Headquarter to ensure that in future, action for procurement of items should be taken in a time bound manner to avoid unnecessary delay.

(d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4583 FOR 18.4.2001

The number of Audit Paras pending in the Ministry from the CAG reports pertaining upto the year 1998-1999 are 197 as on date and year-wise pendency position is as follows:-

Year	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Total
------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------

Pending Paras	10	10	5	16	49	56	51	197
---------------	----	----	---	----	----	----	----	-----

(ii) The main reasons for delay in finalisation of Action Taken Notes are as follows:-

(a) Involvement of multiple agencies in the matter of furnishing information, drafting Action Taken Notes and replies to observations by Audit.

(b) In many cases, the finalisation of the Action Taken Notes gets linked to some other action like settlement of some contractual issues, regularisation of some expenditure/loss or holding Court of Inquiry.

(c) Some time is also taken by Audit in vetting or giving comments on draft Action Taken Notes.

(iii) The position of pending Action Taken Notes is constantly reviewed by Defence Secretary/Secretary(Defence Finance) and

concerned Joint Secretaries. The Service Chiefs have also been advised to set up Central Monitoring Mechanisms in respective Service Headquarters to ensure urgent response to Audit Paras. Meetings are also held with the Officers of Director General of Audit Defence Services/Principal Director of Audit to expedite vetting of Action Taken Notes.